

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-19, 21-29, 31, 33-66, 68, and 70-74.

The examiner allowed claims 9, 12-14, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 46, 49-51, 64, 68, and 70-74.

The examiner indicated allowable claims 6, 17, and 54 if rewritten in independent form to include the corresponding base and any intervening claim(s).

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 10-11, 15-16, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allain, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,449,259) in view of the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

The examiner rejected claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allain in view of AAPA and Dalrymple, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,826,272).

The examiner rejected claims 38-43, 47-48, 52-53, and 55-56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allain, in view of AAPA.

The examiner rejected claims 44-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allain, in view of AAPA and Dalrymple.

The examiner rejected claims 57-63 and 65-66 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allain in view of AAPA.

The applicants amend claims 2-12, 15-16, 39-49, 52-56, and 58-60 and cancels claims 1, 38 and 57 without prejudice. The applicants had previously canceled claims 20, 30, 32, 67, and 69 without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 2-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68, and 70-74 after entering this amendment.

The applicants do not add new matter and request reconsideration.

Claim Allowed

The applicants thank examiner Nguyen for allowing claims 9, 12-14, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 46, 49-51, 64, 68, and 70-74. The applicants have amended claims 9, 12, 46, 49, to eliminate the use of the term step or steps. The applicants do not believe the amendments have any effect on the patentability of these claims.

The applicants amend claims 10-11 and 17-19 to depend from allowed claim 9.

The applicants amend claims 15-16 to depend from allowed claim 12.

The applicants amend claims 39-45, 47-48, and 54-56 to depend from allowed claim 46.

The applicants amend claims 52-53 to depend from allowed claim 49.

The applicants amend claims 58-60, 62-63, and 65 to depend from allowed claim 64.

Claims Allowable

The applicants thank examiner Nguyen for indicating allowable 6, 17, and 54.

The applicants have rewritten claim 6 in independent form to include the corresponding base and any intervening claim(s).

The applicants amend claims 2-5 and 7-8 to depend from rewritten, allowable, independent claim 6.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicants believe the remaining claims 2-19, 21-29, 31, 33-37, 39-56, 58-66, 68, and 70-74 are in condition for allowance. The applicants encourage the examiner to telephone the undersigned if it appears that an interview would advance prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,

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